

Title 440 - Conservation Programs Manual
Wetlands Reserve Program

Exhibit 514.65

WRP Easement Management Guidelines

October 2000 through September 2001

Landowner: John Davies

Date Prepared: 8/4/00

Management prescription developed by: Chris Smith, NRCS, Biologist
Terry Jones, FWS, Biologist
Pat Brown, State DNR

Goal: Manage site to provide a diversity of hydrologic and vegetative conditions that benefit migratory bird and other wetland dependent species throughout all seasons of the year. Special emphasis placed on shorebirds, wading birds, and waterfowl.

Hydrology Management:

Areas 1A and 4B (40 acres) will have no water draw-down other than normal evaporation. This will ensure that the easement area has surface water throughout most of the year to provide brood habitat for nesting waterfowl, breeding areas for resident amphibian populations, summer habitat for wetland dependent species and habitat for late summer and early fall migrating shorebirds and waterfowl.

Area 2 (20 acres) will not have any water control boards removed until May 15 to provide habitat for late migrating species. After this period one board may be removed every two weeks to stimulate germination and growth of vegetation until half the pool acreage is achieved. The last board will be left in all year to provide small wet areas for resident wildlife.

Areas 3 and 4A (60 acres) may begin draw down on April 1. One board will be removed every two weeks until all boards are removed. This will provide foraging areas for migrating shorebirds.

All boards will be returned to water control structures by September 1.

Vegetation Management:

Areas 1A and 4B will not be disturbed by mechanical, chemical, or other means.

Up to 25 percent of Area 2 and 50 percent of Areas 3 and 4A may be disturbed in the spring through disking or other approved means. Disturbed areas will be irregular in shape to maximize edge and create a natural appearance.

Upland areas along north boundary may be mowed in August to remove invading shrubs and encourage grass and forbes for nesting song birds.

Other:

The management of the water levels and vegetation is an option but not a requirement. It is acceptable to allow the water levels to fluctuate naturally and allow natural succession to occur.

NRCS technical assistance may be provided during the year to assist with management actions but financial assistance is not available.